Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Was any of these resolutions accepted by the Government or the department ?

Mr. C. Matthai.—The Secretary, that is, the Member himself, has been addressed to get certain information about these, and I do not think a reply is given.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—I have not received it.

Mr. C. Matthai.—It left my office a fortnight back.

President.—I think it must go through the inspecting officer concerned.

Mr. C. Matthai.—That was about the centres that he proposed. Have you not received the reply ?

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—That I have received.

Mr. C. Matthai.—Then there is the salary of teachers. It will be considered by the Special Finance Committee.

Educational concessions to pupils of the depressed classes.

39. **Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Will the Government be pleased to mention :—

1. whether the Government have received a petition or representation dated 12th Edavam 1102 from Mr. Adakkattil Matthai and others: if so,

2. whether a copy of it will be placed on the table;

3. whether the Government will ascertain and state that in Travancore concessions are granted to pupils of the depressed classes converted even before they were on the school rolls;

4. whether the Government have any objection to follow the practice in Travancore in this matter, and if there is any objection, what is it :

5. whether any reply has been sent to the petitioners, and if so,

6. whether a copy of it will be placed on the table ?

Mr. C. Matthai.—1. Yes.

2. A copy is appended (*Vide Appendix II.*)

3. Government do not consider that a reference to Travancore is necessary.

4. Vide answer to part 3.

5. No.

6. No answer is necessary in view of the answer to part 5.

Retirement from service of Mr. N. P. Easwara Ayyar.

40. **Mr. K. S. Rama Ayyar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the Government received a petition from the people of Trippunittura requesting that the period of the retire-

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ment of Mr. N. P. Easwara Ayyar, Headmaster, Sirkar Boys' High School, Trippunittura, may be extended or to the same effect;

(b) what is the reply given by the Government to the petitioners:

(c) if it is that the request cannot be sanctioned, will the Government state why they could not have granted it;

(d) when is Mr. Easwara Ayyar to retire or has he already been retired;

(e) what is the rule under which he retires or has retired;

(f) if it is the age rule, why should Government retain such a rule and order exceptions sometimes and disallow exceptions at other times and create discontent;

(g) how many people are there now in the service of the Government who are 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62 years old;

(h) if retention in service after the prescribed age is found necessary in so many cases, why do the Government not think of changing the prescription and raising the age limit to 60 or 70 and make the rule the same for all and avoid the necessity for granting exceptions:

(i) what is the rule in Travancore and in British India?

Mr. C. Matthai.—(a) Yes.

(b) Copy of the reply is appended (*Vide Appendix III.*)

(c) The officer was retired under article 201 of the C.S.R.

(d) With effect from 21st Edavam 1102.

(e) Vide answer to part (c).

(f) The exception to the age rule of 55 years is allowed at times in cases of a special nature, and the Government consider that it cannot be done away with altogether.

(g) For officers on Rs. 50 and above *the Civil List* may be consulted. Information in regard to the others is not readily available.

(h) Government do not think that any change in the existing rule and practice is necessary.

(i) No information.

The Excise Committee.

41. Dr. A. G. Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Excise Committee has submitted its reports on the Excise policy of the Government; if so,

(1) whether the Government have passed orders on it;

(2) will the Government be pleased to place them on the table?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—1. and 2. The Committee's report has not been received.

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APPENDIX II.

(Vide Answer to Question No. 39.)

Petition, dated 12th Edavam 1102, from Adakkattil Matthai and others

In continuation of your Proceedings C. 4805/1101, dated 26th January 1927 (reply to our stamped petition), we beg to submit that we felt glad on hearing your Order that change of religion will not entitle any depressed class pupil to lose the educational concessions generally granted to depressed classes. But we are surprised to hear from the Director of Public Instruction that the concessions can be allowed only to pupils of depressed classes and those of the depressed classes *converted while on the school rolls.* Such a memo is absurd, since a depressed class boy converted yesterday and brought to school for admission to-day cannot get the concessions. The real desire for education is in many cases engendered in the minds of the depressed classes only after conversion; and conversion does not change the financial condition of the poor Pulaya families. This is the reason why in Travancore concessions are granted to pupils of the depressed classes converted *even before they were on the school rolls.* If the Head-masters make a local enquiry whether such and such pupils are Pulaya converts and visit their miserable huts, they will know the fact that they are really Pulaya converts; and no misuse of the concessions can be made. Moreover, no other Christians will try to get the concessions, saying that they are Pulaya converts, since the very name *Pulaya* is degrading. Hence, if the Government want to do any real good to the Depressed Class Communities, and if they would be impartial in religious matters, as the benign British Government are, the concessions should be given to all convert children and not only to those converted *while on the school rolls.* We request you to be kind enough to pass the necessary orders at your earliest convenience.

APPENDIX III.

(Vide Answer to Question No. 40.)

Dis. No. 2702/D/1102.

Office of the Diwan of Cochin,
Local and Miscellaneous Department,
30th May 1927.

MEMO.

Reference :—Petition dated 5th Edavam 1102 from Mr. T. S. Ramakrishna Ayyar and others of Trippunittura requesting that Mr. N. P. Easwara Ayyar may be given an extension of service for two years.

The petitioners are informed that the orders already passed will stand.

(By order)

(Sd.) Superintendent of Stamps in charge.

To

The petitioners

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